

3. (Amended) The compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein A is $[\text{CO}_2\text{R}] \text{CO}_2\text{R}^3$.

a2 4. (Amended) The compound of claim 3 wherein R^3 is H or $(\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_6)\text{alkyl}$, optionally substituted with OH, $\text{C}_6\text{-}\text{C}_{10}$ heteroaryl or [OZ, wherein Z is] an ester of an amino acid.

5. (Amended) The compound of claim 4 wherein [Z] the ester of the amino acid is an L-valine residue or L-glycine residue.

6. (Amended) The compound of claim 4 wherein [Z is] R^3 is $(\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_6)\text{alkyl}$ substituted with 4-pyridyl.

7. (Amended) The compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein $[\text{R}^1] \text{-Z-A}$ is ethoxycarbonylpropyl.

a3 11. (Amended) A therapeutical method for treating a pathological [condition] inflammatory response associated with [TNF α release] overproduction of proinflammatory cytokines comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an amount of a compound of claim 1 effective to Inhibit said overproduction so as to treat said pathological [condition] inflammatory response.

In claims 13-14, line 1, delete "12" and insert --11--.

Please add the following claims:

a4 18. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein the proinflammatory cytokines comprise TNF α .

a5 19. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein the proinflammatory cytokines comprise IL-1.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 3, line 5, delete "NNO(OH)" and insert --N(NO)(OH)--.

At page 3, line 6, after " SO_2R^3 ", insert ----.

At page 3, line 8, delete "OZ wherein Z" and insert --OY wherein Y--.